Reducing the Weight of Schools bags of Children

312. SHRI *C,* O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the plight of school going children carrying heavy schools bags on their backs to schools everyday; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are considering to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The National Advisory Committee set up under Chairmanship of Prof. Yas Pal made a number of recommendations regarding the reduction of the academic burden on school children. In the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education State Governments expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The Government have impressed upon the State Governments UTs from time to time for expeditious implementation of the recommendations. The implementation of these recommendations has been intiated by most States and Central Ageacies. The New national Curriculum Framework for School Education brought out by NCERT recently emphasises reduction of curriculum load at all levels. This has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for implementation of the suggestions made therein.

Allocation of Funds to Telugu Bala Mahila Pragati Pranganams

313. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government sanctioned Rs. 1.26 crores form the Norwegian Fund to Andhra Pradesh State Women Finance Cooperative Society f6r starting fresh courses at Telugu